

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 RSR-01 /158 W
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R 061935 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9041

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 9784

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, EG, LY

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR LIBYA- EGYPT UNION

DEPARTMENT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. PROSPECTS FOR MERGER OF EGYPT AND LIBYA SEEM INCREASINGLY REMOTE FROM PERSEPCTIVE OF QUAI D' ORSAY. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS DE WARREN, GOF HAS CONCLUDED THAT WHAT WAS ONCE ONLY WORKING HYPOTHESIS , I. E. IMPROBABILITY OF MERGER ON SCHEDULE IN SEPTEMBER 1973, HAS BECOME VIRTUAL CERTAINTY.

2. DE WARREN CITED RECENT TRIPOLI VISIT OF SADAT AS MOST RECENT EVIDENCE OF COOLING OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. VISIT, HE SAID, HAD BEEN CUT SHORT AND SADAT AND QADHAFI SEEMED PREOCCUPIED AND ILL AT EASE AT DEPARTURE CEREMONIES. IN ADDITION FRENCH BELIEVE QADHAFI WAS EXTREMELY CONCERNED BY EGYPTAIN LACK OF RESPONSE AT SINAI AIR INCIDENT AND IS NOT HAPPY WITH SADAT' S RESHUFFLING OF CAIRO GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION TUNISIAN FONMIN SECRETARY GENERAL MESTIRI RECENTLY TOLD QUAI OFFICIALS THAT IN TUNSIAN- LIBYAN JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS LIBYAN OFFICIALS, WHEN
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SPEAKING PRIVATELY AND PERSONALLY, HAD ALL EXPRESSED
MOST PROFOUND SCEPTICISM ABOUT MERGER PROSPECTS. THIS
SCEPTICISM HAD IMPRESSED TUNISIANS AND ACCORDING TO DE WARREN,
CONFIRMED GOF' S GROWING CONVICTION THAT LIBYAN- EGYPTAIN
MERGER IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES.
IRWIN

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971203
Subject: PROSPECTS FOR LIBYA- EGYPT UNION DEPARTMENT PASS USINT CAIRO
TAGS: PDEV, EG, LY, PDEV
To: ALGIERS
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
TEL AVIV
TRIPOLI
TUNIS
Type: TE

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